

has amended claims 1, 11, and 17, canceled claims 2, 3, 6, 12, and 18, and added claim 25. The Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments render moot the rejections under 35 USC § 102(b) and 103(a).

In particular, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 17 such that these claims each recite a holding system for a dispensing system, where the holding system contains the following elements: a holding structure, a plug projection, a plurality of guide ribs, and at least one wall opening. The holding structure comprises an end wall and a side wall and defines a holding chamber. The plug projection extends from the end wall into the holding chamber. The guide ribs extend from the side wall into the holding chamber. The at least one wall opening is formed in the side wall adjacent to the plug projection to allow access to the plug projection.

This structure is configured to hold a conventional gun/cartridge type dispensing system. The dispensing system comprises a dispensing tip defining a dispensing opening. As the dispensing system is placed into the holding chamber, the guide ribs engage the dispensing system such that entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening is facilitated. Additionally, the at least one wall opening allows the user to reach into the holding chamber and access the plug projection. The user can thus also reach through the dispensing opening to facilitate entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening.

The Applicant is a roofing contractor and constantly uses dispensing systems of the gun/cartridge type to dispense adhesives, sealants, and the like. The Applicant recognized that the longstanding need for a method of containing/protecting the dispensing system when not in use could be solved by the combination of features found in claims 1, 11, and 17 as amended hereby.

The Applicant thus respectfully submits that none of the prior art references, taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest a holding system comprising these elements. The Applicant thus further respectfully submits that claims 1, 11, and 17 as amended hereby are currently in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. Claims 4, 5, 7-10, 13-16, and 19-25 further define claims 1, 11, or 17, and should be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Submitted herewith is a document (entitled Exhibit A - Listing of All Claims and Amendments (02-06-2008)) containing the amendments to the claims described above, including a listing of the claims as currently presented. The Exhibit A attached hereto thus contains the text of each pending claim, along with any amendments made hereby (illustrated using strikethrough and underlining) and the status of each pending claim.

Given the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that currently pending claims 1, 4, 5, 7-11, 13-17, and 19-25 are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If there is any matter which could be expedited by consultation with the Applicant's attorney, such would be welcome. The Applicant's attorney can normally be reached at the telephone number below.

Signed at Bellingham, County of Whatcom, State of Washington this 6th day of February, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Good

By Michael R. Schacht
Michael R. Schacht, Reg. No. 33,550
Customer No. 30662
2801 Meridian Street, Suite 202
Bellingham, WA 98225-2400
phone: (360) 647-0400
fax: (360) 647-0412

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Signature: Gloria Smithey

Print Name: Gloria Smithey

Date: 02/06/2008